

## MARS AND ITS LANGUAGE.

**PROF. FLOURNOY DESCRIBES THE STRANGE CASE OF MILE. HELENE SMITH.**

An Account of the Experiments With the Celebrated French Medium—More Remarkable Than Mrs. Piper—Hypnotism to the Second Degree—She Is Many Persons in Her Curious Trance—A Hindoo Princess and Marie Antoinette Also Visit Mars and Transcribes the Language of the Planet.

M. Th. Flournoy professor of psychology at the University of Geneva, has made an elaborate study of the case of Mile. Helene Smith, whose exploits as a medium far surpass in interest and strangeness those of the celebrated Mrs. Piper. It was December, 1894, that this scientist was invited by Prof. Lehmann, also of Geneva, to attend some seances of a non-religious expert who received no compensation for his services. The professor found the medium quite different in appearance and manner from what he expected. She was a small woman, about thirty years of age, tan, vigorous, of a fresh, healthy complexion, with hair and eyes almost black, of an open and intelligent countenance, which at once invoked sympathy. She uttered nothing of the mysterious or tragic aspect which one habitually ascribes to the sibyls of tradition, but was an air of health, of physical and mental vigor very pleasant to behold, all of which, by the way, is not often encountered in those who are good mediums. The woman, whose real name is concealed for special reasons, was an employee of a business house in which she had attained to a responsible position. She had been manifesting remarkable psychic powers for some three years prior to the date of the professor's introduction to her. He was so impressed by what he saw that he immediately set about the investigation of her experience. For five years he attended most of her seances. And he was able to obtain from his friends notes of the sittings from which he was absent. He was thus in a position to observe the changes which took place in the relation of the medium to the influences under which she comes, and has written forth in "From India to the Planet Mars: A Study of a Case in Somnambulism," which has been translated by Mr. Daniel R. Verrills of Columbia University. The book is published by the Harper.

One of the earliest discoveries of the investigator was that Mile. Smith, the young German housewife, had no less than three distinct "somnambulistic romances." In other words that she has lived three distinct subconscious lives. Two of these romances are connected with the spiritual idea of previous existences. It has, indeed, been revealed that Helene Smith has already lived twice before on this globe. Five hundred years ago she was the daughter of an Arab sheik, and his wife, under the name of Simandini, the favorite of a Hindoo Prince named Siromroo Na vala, who reigned over Kanara, and built in the year 1401 the fortress of Ichandragad. In the last century she reappeared in the person of the illustrious and unioin-tanate Marie Antoinette. Again she was a puissant ruler of her sins and the pervert of her character, in the humble circumstances of H. lone Smith, she, in certain somnambulistic states, recovers the memory of her glorious avatars of old, and becomes again for the moment Hindoo Princess or Queen of France.

Her third "romance" is the most remarkable of all. Through her astonishing mediumistic facilities she has entered in relations with the people and affairs of the planet Mars, and has professed to unveil its mysteries, making use at times of a language which was quite unknown to experts. She had no gift for languages herself, detecting the study of them, though her father spoke Hungarian, German, French, Italian and Spanish and understood English fairly well. From an early age Mile. Smith was given to day dreams. This was partly the result of dissatisfaction with her environment. In speaking of dream in which an isolated house figured she said on one occasion: "To me this retired mansion, in which I lived alone, violated, represents my life, which from my Infancy has been neither happy nor gay. Even while very young I do not remember to have shared any of the tastes or any of the ideas of the members of my family. Thus during the whole of my childhood I was left in what I call a profound isolation of heart. And in spite of all, in spite of this complete want of sympathy, I could not make up my mind to marry, although I had several opportunities. A voice was always saying, 'Do not marry; these men are not arrived; this is not the destiny for which you are reserved.' And I have listened to that voice, which has absolutely nothing to do with conscience, and I am still, for since I have emerged in spirituality, I have found myself surrounded w/ sympathies and friendships that I have sometimes forgotten my sad lot."

In the winter of 1894-95 Mile. Smith became interested in spiritualism and joined a circle of persons who were interested in automatic writing. After a short time she began to show powers much greater and more striking than those of her associates.

The following is a summary of the two first sessions held in this new environment:

"March 20, 1892.—Eleven persons around a large and heavy dining-table of oak with two leaves. The table is set in motion, and several spirits come and give their names (by raps), and testify to the pleasure it gives them to find themselves among us. It is at this session that Mile. Smith begins to distinguish vague glances with long white streamers moving from the floor to the ceiling, and then a magnificent star, which in the darkness appears to her vision throughout the whole of the session. We awoke from this that she will end by seeing things more distinctly and will possess the gift of clairvoyance.

"April 1.—Violent movements of the table, due to a spirit who calls himself David and announces himself as the spiritual guide of the group. Then he gives way to another spirit who says he is Victor Hugo, and the guide and protector of Mile. Smith, who is very much surprised to be assisted by a person of such importance. He soon disappears. Mile. Smith is very much agitated; she has fits of shivering, is very cold. She is very restless and sees suddenly, balancing above the table, a glistening, ill-favoured face, with long red hair. She is so frightened that she demands that the lights be lit. She is calmed and reassured. The figure disappears. Afterward she sees a magnificent bouquet of roses of different hues being placed on the table before one of the sisters. M. P. All at once she sees a small snake come out from under the bouquet, which, crawling quickly, pervades the flowers, looks at them, tries to reach the hand of M. P., withdraws for an instant, comes back slowly, and disappears in the interior of the bouquet. Then all is dissolved and three raps are given on the table, terminating the seance. (M. P. interprets the meaning of the vision of the bouquet and the serpent as a symbolic translation of an emotional impression experienced by Mile. Smith.)"

A spirit personality known to Mile. Smith and her friends as Leopold soon after began to make his influence felt. For a while there seemed to be a struggle between this disconcerted personality and the spirit of Victor Hugo. It was soon discovered that "Leopold" was none other than the renowned Cagliostro. The appearance of the new guide is thus described in the reports of the seances of the group to which Mile. Smith belonged, under the date of Sept. 23, 1892:

"A spirit is appearing. A spirit an announcement. It is Leopold. He speaks to us at once. 'I am here. I wish to speak to you all. You are my friends. You are the ones of this sitting.' We are very much disengaged, and do not expect any good of him. He tries, as he had already done once before, to put Mile. Smith to sleep, who has great difficulty in struggling against this sleep. She rises from the table, hoping by this means to rid herself of him, and that he will give up his place to others. She returns in about ten minutes, but he is still there, and apparently has no intention of abandoning his place. We

summon our friends (spiritual) to our aid. \*\*\* They take Leopold's place momentarily, but very soon Leopold returns; we struggle with him, we desire him to go away, but neither soft nor hard words have any effect; before that dogged determination we realize that all our efforts will be useless, and we decide to close the session."

The new guide soon robs the old one and obtains complete ascendancy over the medium, giving her advice as to her personal well-being and acting as her guru philosopher and friend. He presents himself before her eyes with countenance which is beyond him exactly as an image in my own flesh and bone would. He talks into her ears, gently and softly, from a distance, which appears to come from infinite distance, sometimes about six feet off, sometimes much further. He just lets the table on which she sits move, like a spirit, and her crust and wits with her, has the man in a maze unlike her with a man writing wholly different from her. The man is very different from her. He is a little older, she is astonished to learn upon awakening that he has gestured with her arms and spoken through her mouth. He is a tall, very thin, pale, thin-faced Italian agent, which has nothing in common with the clear and beautiful quality of her feminine voice.

The sentiment experienced by Leopold for Mile. Smith is not always on hand. It is only a continuation of that of Cagliostro for Marie Antoinette. The medium told Prof. Flournoy: "The reason for this is that the medium is dependent on the feeling of a queen, and an access to which she gradually drops on coming back into her normal condition. It is her desire to hold the rank. There is, first, the Count of Tagastro, most sorrowful reader sorceror, as he has come to be called, in consequence of the course of his visits and his conversations, which are very varied, including the discussion of philosophical subjects, such as the nature of God, and so well the grasp of the intellects of Versailles. There is, secondly, Louis Philippe d'Orleans (Emperor); while the third is the old King of Spain, who has numerously reappeared and held the first rank. 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